

NEW LONDON GETS FIRST SOLDIER DEAD

(Special to The Bulletin)

New London, May 14—Earl Burton Rathburn, who went overseas as a private in Battery B, Fifty-sixth regiment, and who died soon after arrival in France, the first service man from New London to die abroad during the world war, was buried with military honors on Thursday of the present week in East Neck cemetery, Waterford. He was the first to die and the first soldier whose body was returned to his mother and other relatives in New London. Rathburn was nineteen years of age, a member of Niagara Engine company, No. 1, and with other members of that company was among the very first to respond to the call for troops, enlisted in the local companies of the Connecticut National Guard, after the organization had been ordered to prepare for active service.

When the body of the young soldier arrived Tuesday night it was taken direct from the train to the Niagara Engine house and the funeral services were held there. The body was escorted to the cemetery by members of the company in the uniforms they wore while in service abroad, the other Niagara men appearing in civilian dress. The funeral cortege was headed by a military band and the Prince Post, American Legion was represented. A volley was fired at the grave and taps were sounded. The Niagara and former service men paid all possible honor to the memory of young Rathburn. The city government took no part in the testimonial to the dead.

There are men in New London who remember the way the whole city united and did honor to the memory of the first soldier who died in the Civil war. There was a general demonstration. Business was suspended and all available military and civic organizations attended the funeral. There were religious and patriotic exercises at the old court house and cemetery services at Cedar Grove and Catholic cemeteries. If memory is to New London at that time, the whole people were as one individual in paying homage to the men who died in the military service of the country in time of war. There was no general demonstration over the burial of Earl Rathburn, but his intimate friends gave him a burial that included more honors than are due to the men who rushed to the country's need in time of war. It cannot hardly be said that there is a difference in the brand of patriotism that

time of unusual heavy taxation of a city meeting making an appropriation of a million for a school building?

There is no doubt by the majority of the freemen that a junior high school would be a great benefit to the school children of New London and that was demonstrated when the half million appropriation was made. It may be that the construction can be by unit and that a building to meet the present requirements may be the outcome. The board of school visitors are giving the matter their most earnest attention, and the report to the city meeting will explain the real situation.

The board of park commissioners have purchased that triangular tract of land bounded by Bank, Reed and Howard streets with the idea of not only widening the streets at that congested junction, but also adding another parklet or beauty spot to the city's collection of that class. This plan will make way for one of those much needed public improvements that will be appreciated by the general public, regardless of the expense. On the Bank and Howard street corner is an old story and a half building, so old that even Richard B. Ball, the local historian, cannot determine its age. It is so old that the oldest inhabitant cannot tell the time of its erection, even by tradition. It antedates Bank street, and for more than a century a part of the lower part of the building has been utilized as a store.

The park commissioners made the purchase from the Brannigan estate that owned the property forty or more years. Prior to that ownership the property was owned by Patrick Fenlon, who moved from here to Westerly and died there about twenty years ago. When Mr. Fenlon conducted the store it was not even as large as at present. That front extension was not there. Only the original building and half of the lower floor was there. When the oldest person now living knew the residence of Mr. Fenlon and family, that place the house stood on a mound and was reached by a paving of cobble stones. The house stood perhaps three feet above the present Bank street level.

Although this building is of the story and a half type, and not large at that, it was up stairs in this building where the first Roman Catholic services were held in New London. Mass was said there about once a month by a missionary priest, Father Flitton, who traveled through this territory on horseback. Up to 1240 the marriages of Catholics were solemnized in that old house soon to be razed. Since then there have been four Catholic church edifices erected, the two granite churches, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, now serving two distinct and large parishes.

In the period just beyond the memory of the old man of today, the building was occupied by Isaac T. Constock and

Beebe and Sharp. But there are lots of people around the old town, especially those who formerly resided in the Ramrod district who can readily recall the occupancy of the structure by Patrick Fenlon, John Brannigan, William R. Dougan, John P. Fitzgerald, Edward Keefe, and Patrick McCaffrey. In the days when mass was said up stairs in that building it was the tenement of a Catholic family, a rarity in the days when that old house was in its prime.

PUTNAM

(Continued From Page 6.)

week through the White Mountain region and sections of Vermont.

A number of Putnam people were in Danbury Friday evening to attend the Calico and Overall ball at the state armory.

Arthur G. Dawson, formerly of Pomfret Landing, now of the Columbia university law school took first prize in the annual contest for prize medals at the law school. The competition was exceedingly keen.

The fact that May has been more like March than what May is poetically supposed to be is perhaps responsible for the fact that the old custom of hanging May baskets has fallen off greatly in this city.

Frank Gifford, who has been in the south during the winter, has returned to Putnam.

Joseph Hope, who was superintendent of the trolley line here during the period from July of last year until the taking over of the lines recently by the Connecticut company, is now located with Mrs. Hope, at Port Jervis, N. Y.

Advertising material recently issued shows that there are more farms for sale in Windham county than ever before, not because there are more farms, but because more farmers have become discouraged in trying to compete against industrial conditions that cannot be met.

There may be nothing in the name of the locality in which one lives, but the fact remains that William Segur, who resides at Brandy hill in the town

of Thompson, has just entered his 94th year.

Not all of those who went out on strike some time since have returned to their work at the plant of the French River Textile company at Mechanicville, but the great majority has, and it may be said that industrial peace reigns in that neighborhood.

GALES FERRY

An open meeting of the Ladies Aid society of the M. E. church was held in the vestry Thursday afternoon with the members of the Long Cove contingent in attendance. Miss Mary Moreland, county organizer of the Woman's Equality league, spoke on Citizenship. Miss Moreland organized a class to hear six lectures in a course of citizenship. The first lecture is to be given May 20, topic Town and County Government, given by Mrs. Schoenmaker, Borough and City Government, May 27, by Mrs. Kitchell; State Government, June 3, by Miss Kitchell; National Government, June 10, by Mrs. Schoenmaker; Political Parties and Platforms, June 17, by Mrs. Frederick Harrison; New Problems That Await Us, Mrs. Schoenmaker. At the closing of the session delicious refreshments were served by the Get-Together club and a silver offering was taken for the benefit of the Ladies Aid society. The course of lectures will take place in conjunction with the meetings of the society at the vestry of the M. E. church.

A community party was given under the auspices of the Village Improvement association at the clubhouse Monday evening. A feature of the evening was a spelling match when Walter M. Buckingham and Fletcher Wilson of Brooklyn, N. Y. chose sides. Mr. Wilson's side won out with Dudley C. Perkins, champion speller of the evening, winning the prize. A good deal of fun resulted from matching up partners for supper from the lunch boxes.

Members of the Gales Ferry Country club are improving the grounds about the clubhouse, planting shrubs and lawns. Miss Caroline B. Freeman, Miss Laura A. Perkins and Mrs. Lulu B. Hemphre are on the committee in charge of the

landscape gardening.

Postmaster D. B. Povey will receive contributions from May 15-19 in the Salvation Army home service fund drive, for which Gales Ferry has been apportioned \$28.60. Mr. Povey will forward the amount received to campaign headquarters.

Members of the finance committee with others interested in the work of the Gales Ferry M. E. church gathered Tuesday evening at the home of Novus B. Allen, collector for the permanent fund of this church, to consider the advancement of the fund. Mr. Allen started on this work in August, 1916, as an aid to the support of the church, as many who had given largely to its support had passed on. In 1918 two \$1,000 Liberty bonds were purchased from the sum of \$2,000 which he had collected by his untiring perseverance. This also left a small surplus in a savings bank. The interest of these bonds is now being used in the work of the church. With the same enthusiasm as in years past, Mr. Allen proposed a drive for a month, each one present acting as a collector, to meet with him at the close of the month to report progress. This met with the unanimous approval of all, each one present agreeing to aid in soliciting. Ice cream and cake were provided as a surprise to Mr. Allen and a pleasant social hour was enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Clark and Miss Florine Scotland, with Day Fillmore, all from Norwich, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Buckingham Tuesday.

Rev. P. C. Wright, D. D., and Mrs. Wright of Hartford spent Wednesday and Thursday at their cottage on the bluff.

Christopher G. Allen and Miss Elizabeth Lane were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Latham E. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Miller entertained recently Mr. Miller's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C. Miller, and their son Elfred, with Mrs. Miller's brother, Louis Soromon, of Boston, the party coming by automobile.

Judge Alfred E. Stearns and Mrs. Stearns of Brooklyn, N. Y. visited at their cottage on the bluff Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. Mary Specker and grandson

Henry Allen, of Plainville, L. I., are guests of Mrs. Specker's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoff.

Rev. Allen Shaw Bush attended the conference Tuesday at New London.

Rev. G. H. Wright will speak in the M. E. church Sunday morning on Calming of the Tempest.

MANSFIELD CENTER

Sunday, May 9, was observed as Mothers' day with a special sermon by the pastor, Mr. Fry.

The Young People's club held a meeting Monday evening at the home of Miss Marie March. As a departure from the usual program, this meeting was called just for fun. Each member responded with a short story, there were several readings, and the evening ended with a marshmallow toast.

Funerals were held here Saturday, May 15.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Clark spent the week end at Gorton Long Point, where they are spending another cottage.

Dr. E. B. Marsh was in New Haven Tuesday attending a state medical meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. James entertained this week a cousin, Mr. Yoder, of Virginia.

Members of Miss Alberta Eno's Sunday school class held a class meeting Tuesday afternoon at Miss Eno's home. The following officers were chosen: President, Clara Anthony; vice president, Ruth Olen; secretary, Amy Hawkins; treasurer, Howard Eaton. Miss Eno served cake and sandwiches.

Clennor Burruss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Burruss, underwent a minor operation Tuesday.

Mrs. G. H. Wyman returned Monday evening from East Morris, the new home of her daughter, Mrs. Willis Hogue.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Preston are occupying their new home, Mrs. Walker of Mr. Hope is moving to the new home vacated by them.

Mrs. Lucy Gatchell spent the week end at the parsonage and served as organist at the Sunday morning service.

Mrs. B. P. Davis and daughter Athia returned Tuesday to their home in

Franklin after a short visit with Mrs. Davis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Franklin.

WILLINGTON

Miss Rollinson returned Wednesday to her home in New York after spending two weeks with Miss Mercey.

Charles Ambrose has sold several thousand ties to the Hartford and Woodbury railroad, Vermont.

Louis Morse is repairing property and making additions for William Parisek, Aldrich Vonnack, Andrew Bodnar and John Merrill went to Kewton's pond, West Ashford, fishing Monday night and made a good catch.

Miss Sara Punning is in New York for two weeks.

Mrs. Diantha Essex will leave Sunday for Salem, Mass., to visit her daughter, Mrs. Alex. Ross. Her grandson, Orest Hemmeler, will accompany her as far as Boston; they will drive Mr. Hemmeler's car to Willimantic, where they will take the train.

Mr. Mines of Vermont came Monday to inspect for the Hartford and Woodbury railroad ties owned by Charles Ambrose. He stayed at the Hoyer house.

Sunday afternoon the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts will have charge of the church service.

The season is very backward—trees not leaved out, gardens not planted, and the weather so cold and rainy that the woodpile diminishes fast.

Manchester—The Macabees of Connecticut are coming to Manchester to hold their annual state convention tomorrow, Saturday, May 15.

CASTORIA

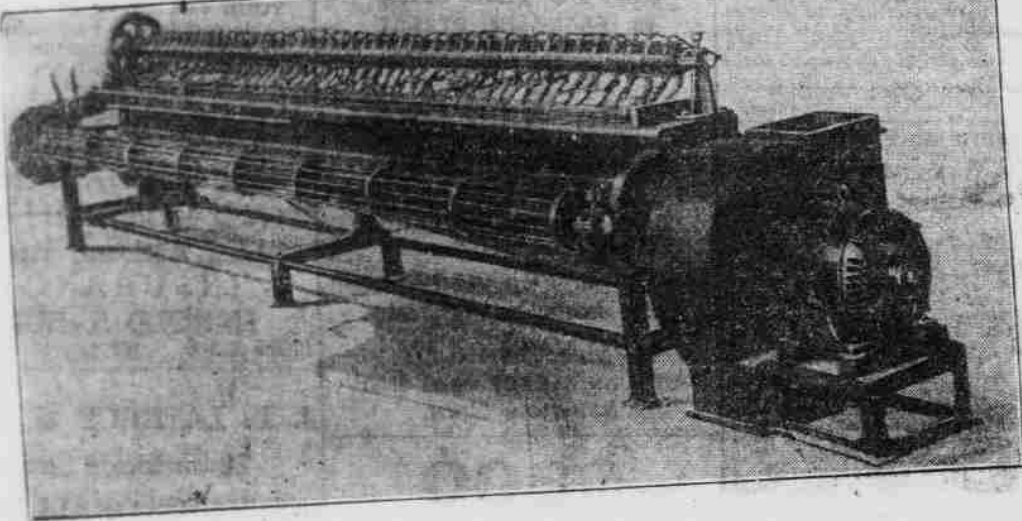
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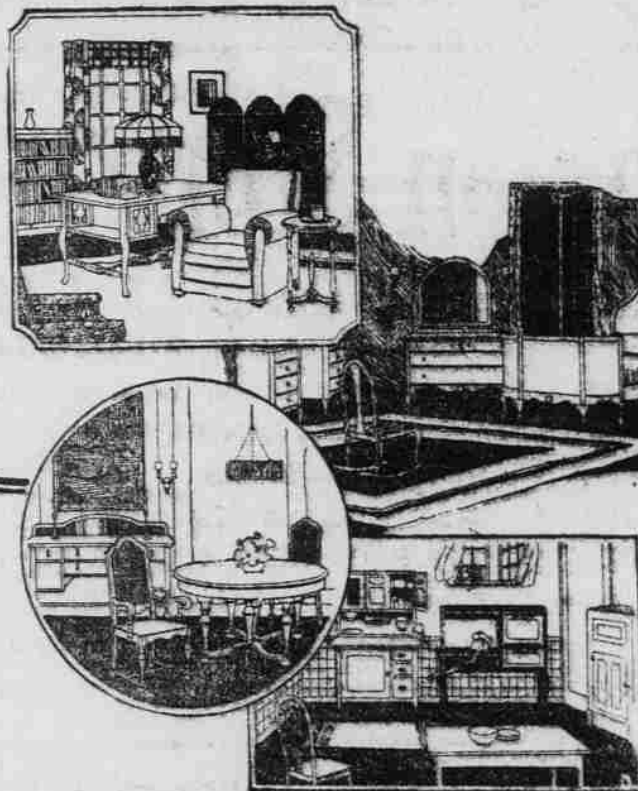
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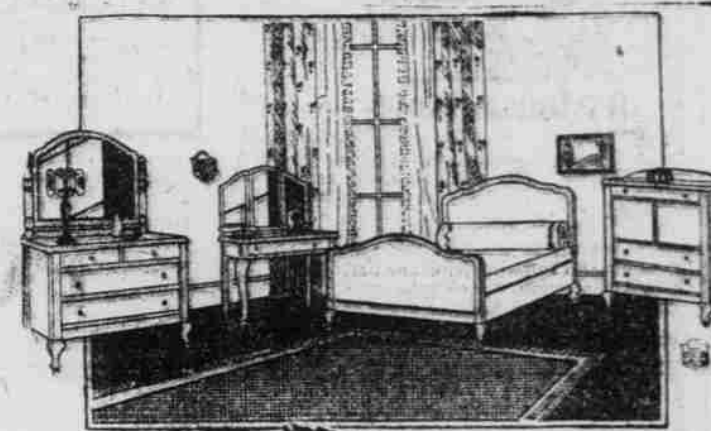
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